

Message Text

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PAGE 01 CARACA 02230 032044Z
ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 ARAE-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 USIE-00 INRE-00
CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05
PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 /050 W
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O 031942Z MAR 77
FM AMEMBASSY CARACAS
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 6826
INFO AMEMBASSY MEXICO

C O N F I D E N T I A L CARACAS 2230

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PFOR SOPN, VE, US
SUBJECT: PRESIDENT PEREZ DOWNPLAYS NEW YORK TIMES MARCH 1 STORY

REF: CARACAS 2153(NOTAL), 2150

1. PRESIDENT PEREZ TOLD PRESS EVENING MARCH 3 THAT THERE IS "ABSOLUTELY NOTHING NEW TO SAY ABOUT THE CIA (AFFAIR)," AND THAT THE "INCIDENT IS TOTALLY CLOSED." HE NOTED FURTHER THAT THE LETTER FROM PRESIDENT CARTER WAS "VERY SATISFACTORY" TO GOV AND TO HIM PERSONALLY. PEREZ ALSO SPOKE ELLIPTICALLY ABOUT POSSIBLE LEGAL ACTION AGAINST THE NY TIMES. WHEN PRESSED BY REPORTERS AS TO WHETHER GOV IS CONCERNING LEGAL ACTION AGAINST NY TIMES, PEREZ SAID GOV HAS NOT YET MADE A DECISION. HE ADDED THAT THE GOV "ACTS WHEN IT SPEAKS" AND SINCE "WE ARE NOT ACTING AT THIS TIME, IT IS BETTER TO STILL REMAIN SILENT."

2. AD PRESIDENTIAL ASPIRANT AND PARTY SECRETARY GENERAL, LUIS PINERUA ORDAZ, ALSO TOLD PRESS THAT AD DOES NOT GIVE MUCH IMPORTANCE TO SECOND NY TIMES ARTICLE. PINERUA SAID IT WAS A BASE "REPRISE" OF THE FIRST EFFORT TO SMEAR THE PRESIDENT.

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PAGE 02 CARACA 02230 032044Z

3. COPEI PRESIDENT GODOFREDO GONZALES SAID GOV'S REACTION TO MARCH 1 STORY WAS EXAGGERATED, PARTICULARLY IN LIGHT OF FACT THAT PEREZ HAD EARLIER DECLARED THAT HE HAD CONSIDERED THE CASE CLOSED AFTER RECEIVING PRESIDENT CARTER'S LETTER. GONZALES ALSO CRITICIZED GOV'S MARCH 2 COMMUNIQUE FOR HAVING STATED THAT NY TIMES STORY INVOLVED DEMOCRATIC GOVERNMENTS (PLURAL). (SEE 4TH PARA OF COMMUNIQUE TRANSMITTED

CARACAS 2150.) GONZALES SAID THAT REFERENCE TO MORE THAN ONE GOVERNMENT WAS UNCALLED FOR. (NOTE: PLURAL REFERENCE INCLUDES COPEI ADMINISTRATION OF PRESIDENT CALDERA.)

4. COMMENT: A HIGHLY-PLACED AD PARTY SOURCE WHO HAD DISCUSSED THE CASE YESTERDAY EVENING WITH PRESIDENT PEREZ AND SENATE PRESIDENT GONZALO BARRIOS INFORMED CHARGE THAT THINGS WERE "CALM" AND THAT HE EXPECTED NO FURTHER GOV REACTION.
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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
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Sent Date: 03-Mar-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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